

MUNICIPAL GARAGE AND METERS TO CHECK GRAFT IN CITY AUTOS

**Comptroller Metz Approves Plan to
Stop Use of Public Vehicles for
Reckless Night and Day
Pleasure Trips.**

Taximeters may soon adorn city-owned automobiles. There is a reason. City department heads are prone to use the municipal auto for private excursions. It's a great temptation, in view of the fact that there is absolutely no check on the city choo-choo wagons, and a department head is monarch of all he surveys in the auto line. In the dead hours of the night or the "sma" hours of morning he can command a whole cavalcade of autos for his own use or that of his friends, if he is so inclined, and the records show the inclination is very strong in these days of perilous finance.

Any of the commissioners, from Health to Bridges, has control over any number of gasoline bureaus, and while the taxpayer foots the bill for the semi-official auto dash the department chief or his nearest friend may reap the pleasure of a whirl in any old place at the city's cost. It's a species of graft for which no regulation at present provides a tab.

For instance, if Commissioner So and So wants to take a party of friends to Coney Island or the Rockaways all he has to do is to command the city-owned chauffeur to get busy with the machine and the buzzer is on the job. If there is anything a city paid chauffeur likes to do it is to go summing in the auto with his boss. He doesn't get paid extra, but the time and the good time more than compensate.

Metz Wants a Check.
Comptroller Metz, whose finance department autos have been in many a scrape, is seeking to check the auto graft. He wants a city-owned and a city-controlled garage establishment, and also to have time clocks or taximeters applied to all city-owned buggies. His inspectors have made several interesting reports as to the present condition of things. They have spotted city-owned autos at Coney Island and other resorts, one machine being caught with a pleasure party aboard as far out on Long Island as Huntington. In trading New Jersey is not to be thought of, although the Mosquito State has been no stranger to the official New York auto. There were several good fights in New Jersey recently, and some of the boys who receive salaries from the city and have a pull with the "heads" had the city autos convey them in state to the scene of the fist-cuffs exchange. There have been cock fighting expeditions, too, which "the boys" really enjoyed, and the chauffeurs got a few liberal tips, enough anyhow to make them feel quite at home with the bunch they took out.

Sometimes the navigators of these city-owned craft go to the hospital. They become altogether too exuberant.

City Pays the Bills.
Note this—James Gough, city paid chauffeur, in charge of a Finance Department buzzer, thought he saw a clear track the other night at One Hundred and Forty-fifth street and Lenox avenue. His friend, Donald Wenck, of No. 52 Wallace street, Red Bank, N. J., was with him. There was a fine excavation at the crossing, and Gough's machine dropped into it. A derrick was needed to haul out the machine, and the chauffeur and his friend spent two days in the hospital. The bill for repairs, \$657.93, will be paid by the city, and the chauffeur will draw his salary while he remains incapacitated.

The Bridge Department has no garage.

No.	Department.	Cost.
10	Dept. of Street Cleaning.....	\$27,914
8	Fire Department.....	30,250
3	Police Department.....	23,375
4	Department of Public Charities.....	14,000
3	President, Manhattan.....	14,000
14	President, Brooklyn.....	14,000
3	President, Queens.....	8,500
9	President, Richmond.....	16,000
1	President, the Bronx.....	4,000
2	Department of Correction.....	7,000
5	Department of Bridges.....	5,500
6	Department of Finance.....	9,200
6	Department of Parks.....	17,340
5	Department of Water Supply.....	10,300
2	Board of Education.....	8,900
5	Board of Water Supply.....	15,700
Total (100 machines) cost.....		\$220,000

The Bridge Department has no garage.

Lord & Taylor
Stationery Department

Some Odd Lots of
Fine Writing Papers
At Very Low Prices

Fabrique Linon colors: All White, Blue and White, Gray and White. 5 Quires Paper 100 Envelopes } \$50c., value \$1.25	Fabrique Bond colors: All White, Blue and White 5 Quires Paper } 50c., value \$1.00 100 Envelopes }	Fabrique Finish colors: All White—Blue and White Gray and White 60 Sheets Paper 60 Envelopes } 10c., value 35c
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Mourning Papers Fabrique Linon Mourning Borders 1, 2, 3 5 quires Paper, 100 Envelopes 95c., value \$1.75	English Fabric Mourning Borders 1, 2, 3 5 quires Paper, 100 Envelopes 75c., value \$1.45
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Broadway and 20th St.; 5th Ave., 19th St.

LABOR LEADERS DENY CONTEMPT, ASK JURY TRIAL

Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison
File Their Answer in
Bucks Stove Boycott Case.

ONLY ASSERTED RIGHTS.

No Sinister Motive in Publications
on Court Rulings in
Federation's Journal.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 8.—In their answers to the petition of the Bucks Stove and Range Company to have Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, punished for contempt on the charge of violating the order of Justice Gould enjoining them from continuing the boycott against the stove company by publishing the name of that company in the "We don't purchase" list, which was filed to-day in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, the three defendants named asked that the issues be tried before a jury and not by Justice Gould alone.

Most of the specifications of the petition relate to publications in the American Federationist, the official organ of the Federation, of which Mr. Gompers is editor, and to public addresses made by him, and his response is of much greater length than those of Messrs. Mitchell and Morrison, both of whom profess ignorance as to the majority of the utterances quoted.

Contempt Not Intended.

For the most part, Mr. Gompers admits the correctness of the quotations from his speeches, interviews and editorials, but he declares that none of them were intended to be in contempt of any decree of the court.

The principal charge made in the petition refers to criticisms of the injunctions which were made by Mr. Gompers in an editorial published in the Federationist for February, 1908, in which he characterized the injunction as an invasion of the liberty of the press and of the right of free speech, and further said it would be impossible to comply with all its terms. Replying to this charge, Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison unite in saying that "there never existed any conspiracy, combination, agreement or understanding which resulted in any degree in bringing about the publication of said editorial, but that the passage of the decree raised a new issue, to wit, whether the Court had acted within or without the limits prescribed by justice; that this issue, which was one only incidentally relating to the pending case, but which might have been raised by a case between entirely different parties quite as well, was the only issue discussed by him. From his viewpoint, he believed the action of the Court to be erroneous."

Mr. Gompers grows facetious in replying to the charges that he favored the boycott ten years ago, saying that not being a clairvoyant he could not then have known of the decision in this case, and urging that no expression used by him at that time can be construed as in contempt of so recent a decision as the one involved.

Mitchell Denies Blame.
Responding to a specific charge against himself, Mr. Mitchell said: "He admits that on Jan. 25, 1908, he was in the chair as presiding officer of the nineteenth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America, held at Minneapolis, Minn. By reference to the minutes of the proceedings had at that time he finds that the resolution

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Why Jury Trial is Ordered.
The request for a jury trial was expressed as follows:

"Further answering, this respondent says that several issues of fact arise herein as to the doing or not of certain acts, as to the motive and intent with which such acts were performed, and as to whether the same were committed, if committed at all, in violation of the order or decree of this court; that such acts are of a nature properly to be inquired into by a jury, involving, as they do, the question of a criminal or quasi-criminal intent, as to which the unwritten law of this country and England recognizes a jury representing the sense of the body of the community as superior to the opinion of a judge, selected because of his special qualifications as a lawyer; therefore, issue and trial should be passed upon by a jury."

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